

**MINUTES  
CITY OF MILPITAS  
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION**

**Minutes:** Special Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)  
**Date of Meeting:** Wednesday, June 28, 2006  
**Place of Meeting:** Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Rm.

**I. Roll** Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.  
Commissioners/Alternates Present: Arthur, Grilli, Mateo, Swiger  
Commissioners Absent: Arefi, Chahal, Garcia, McCarter, Wan  
City Council Liaison Absent: Bob Livengood  
MUSD Liaison Absent: Marsha Grilli

**II. Alternates** No alternate commissioners were present.

**III. Agenda** **MOTION** to approve the June 28, 2006 agenda.

M/S: Garcia/Mateo                      Ayes: All

**IV. Announcements/Correspondence**

None.

**V. Citizen's Forum**

There were no speakers.

**VI. New Business**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Grilli and the commissioners welcomed Mayor Lim from Dagupan, Romy Manuel and other members of the Dagupan City Association of Northern California, as well as members of the host families who were present.

**2. Comments from Mayor Benjamin Lim, Dagupan, Philippines**

Mayor Lim thanked everyone for calling the meeting. He stated that his main purpose was to thank the commission for their support of the recent visit, as it was a fulfillment of the sister cities agreement. He also thanked the City Council and the newly created Sister Cities Committee. He then thanked Tess Santos and the host families.

Mayor Lim stated that when the students returned home from Milpitas they gave reports about their visit and noted that it was a wonderful experience. He stated that some of the student observations included a preference to spend additional time in school to learn more about the educational system of United States. He stated that the students had very good observations and comments on the education system. He will share these observations at a later date for the commission to review with the purpose of improving programs. Mayor Lim stated that they are expecting visitors from Milpitas around February 2007 and suggested that recruitment and screening should begin soon, as well as looking at the activities to focus on while the visitors are in Dagupan. He suggested early planning and communicating via e-mail as well for efficiency purposes and would like to know the commissioners preferences for the visit.

Grilli stated that the commission has a form developed for visit assessments that was distributed to all participants including the school, commissioners, staff, host families and students acting as hosts. He noted that once the commission receives the assessments they will share the evaluations with Dagupan staff.

Vice Chair Arthur asked about the duration of school attendance during visits. Grilli stated that the students attended school for four days, with five days being the maximum for school attendance. The four day attendance at school is encouraged so that there is one day for a San Francisco tour. Mayor Lim said that was fine.

In terms of recruitment processes, Grilli noted that commissioners attend parent meetings for each grade level to explain the program and information is also available through the principal of the school. He stated that hopefully some enthusiasm would be generated from the recent visit by Dagupan. The commission is also looking into advertising in the school newspaper. The number of students who will participate in January or February 2007 depends on how many students and families are interested, however, the commission will distribute thorough information. Mayor Lim asked how many students participated in the past for the Tsukuba exchange. Arthur noted that there were up to 16 students at the middle school level with the numbers varying in different years, and that the high school exchange is new. Grilli noted that ten students visited Huizhou last year and that none visited this year despite the fact that a large amount of information had gone out. Grilli also noted that they encourage host families to inform the community to encourage more participation. Mayor Lim suggested that if it's more feasible, perhaps students could visit two or three countries during one visit given their relatively close proximity. Chair Grilli stated that this is an idea worth considering, however, it may have to occur at a certain time during the year so that students would have more time to visit two or three countries – it may need to take place during the summer instead of the winter months.

Arthur asked for suggestions from Dagupan staff as to what activities are available in their area in order to assist with planning a visit. Mayor Lim will provide places of interest near the city. Arthur also noted a possible concern about students visiting more than one country as that may place financial and time burdens on them so they would need to obtain feedback from families to see if this is feasible. Arthur also noted that it was very helpful that Dagupan students spoke English.

Commissioner Swiger thanked Romy Manuel and his organization for their support.

Grilli stated that this first visit was a well-run exchange and he appreciated everyone's cooperation in making it work. Mayor Lim stated that hopefully the exchange could take place every two years.

## **VII. Adjournment**

No further business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on July 27, 2006.

**MOTION** to adjourn.

M/S: Garcia/Arthur                      Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Cuciz  
Recording Secretary